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## EDITORIAL NOTES

### A CONSIDERABLE MESS.

At the time of writing, no Board of Medical Examiners has been appointed under the "new and wonderful law. This brilliant piece of legislation calls for the new board to meet and organize on the first Tuesday of September, which was the second day of that month, but as no board has been appointed there has been no organization, no methods of procedure formulated and nobody knows anything definite as to the status of medical licensure in California. Of the old board, nine members have not resigned and it may be presumed that they are still members of "a" Board of Medical Examiners; but under which law? What is the medical law of this state? Is it the old law or the new law? Why has the governor failed to appoint a new board to administer his new law? It is rumored about that the Attorney General is of the opinion that the nice new law is unconstitutional; it is also rumored that the governor makes no appointments for the reason that as soon as a new board is appointed, certain persons will bring an action in the courts to have the law set aside. Almost every section of this freak law contains errors of omission and commission which our attorney is quite sure are unconstitutional or at least serious defects which can only be interpreted by the courts. The situation is amusingly Gilbertian! Have we a law, and if so, which? Have we a board, and if so, who are the members? How many nice, young, deserving

physician get a license to practice in this state? Dr. F. M. Pottenger, in a few pained words of disapproval because the JOURNAL went on record as considering the law idiotic and those who made it—well, let's say, foolish, (September issue, page 386), said: "The profession must be aggressive and emphasize the things for which scientific medicine stands." Does scientific medicine "stand for" the silly mess in which the medical profession now finds itself? Does Dr. Pottenger approve of it? Can he offer any suggestions which will be of service to our attorneys in clearing up the situation? What is the "sentiment of the medical profession of this state"? Does it approve of the acts that have placed a board of medical examiners and a law regulating the practice of our profession, one of the most dignified of all human callings, in this comic opera situation? Is the humiliating condition of things at the present time such as to fill the members of our profession with pride at the intelligent (!) manner in which this mess has been brought about? The JOURNAL most respectfully refers a few of these queries to Dr. Pottenger for his thoughtful consideration.

### LABOR AND "PATENT MEDICINES."

With the statement that it is "From the United Labor Journal, March 1, 1913," comes a reprint of a short article, "Patent Medicines Proven Good." "United Labor" certainly is a traitor to the best interests of the laboring man, for it is just that class—the poor and the very moderately well-to-do laboring class—that make rich the patent medicine manufacturers. What sort of an influence can such a paragraph as the following have upon the not-too-well-able to think laboring man who might better spend his few dollars for more air or food than for an expensive mixture of alcohol and coloring matter and some worthless vegetable stuff of evil taste:

"If the records could be compiled, that is to say, were figures available for such records, it would be shown that patent medicines are the greatest safeguards to the health of the nation, and that they do more to stave off sickness and prevent epidemic than any other element brought out of the chaos of experiments by science."

It is the laboring class of all others that should protect itself from the wastefulness of patent medicines and from the danger of poor and incompetent physicians. The laboring man needs his health and strength in order to make his living; when he cannot work he is not paid and therefore he is the very man who should receive the very best medical advice when he is injured or is ill in order that he may the sooner get back to his earning capacity. It is the laboring class and the poor who make the quacks rich and build palaces for the patent medicine manufacturers; and yet they will not wake up and help stop it and they are led astray by their own publications! One is tempted to believe that our old friend, Mr. Barnum, was at least partly right.